



Equipes Notre-Dame



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My very dear Couples and Spiritual Counsellors,

I would like to begin my communication with you with this page of greeting.

I cannot hide the fact that when Clarita & Edgardo, our international Responsible Couple, invited me to accompany them as the Spiritual Counsellor for the ERI, I experienced great fear and tremendous doubt. It is not an easy task. And even more so, taking into account my own poverty and weakness and knowing so many brothers in the priestly ministry, spiritual counsellors in the Movement, who are much more capable and more filled with holiness and virtues than I. But, when faced with a calling that presented itself to me as a suggestion in prayer and an openness to the Spirit, I thought that those who invite know whom they are dealing with. When I consulted my bishop, Cardinal Rubén Salazar Gómez, archbishop of Bogotá, and the director of the priests' association to which I belong, and when I meditated in the silence of my prayer, I concluded that if it is possible to serve, why not do so.

What I can offer to those who called upon me and to the entire Movement is my availability, my desire to be useful and my deep love of Teams of Our Lady. I believe in marriage as a sacrament of the Church and as a path to holiness; I have been a witness for more than 25 years to married life and the journey of so many couples in the various Teams I accompanied; I guided many young couples in the discernment of their love and their decision to get married in the Church; I shared the joys and sadness, the work, the conflicts and the efforts of married couples and the preoccupations of parents in the education of their children; I pray with many spouses who are believers and who desire the salvation of their offspring; finally, I have lived very close to the deep and sacred mystery of married life. For these reasons, and with my uncertain capabilities and limitations, I am ready for the service

that has been entrusted to me.

We are experiencing a peculiarly sensitive moment for our Church. Pope Francis constantly reminds us of the calling to holiness that has been addressed to us. The world in which we live asks us for more and more existential coherence. Christian marriage as a life project asks us to bear witness and be credible.

If we are convinced that our Lord Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life; if we share the sacramental reality that accompanies us since our baptism; if we believe in the calling to be credible witnesses to Christ's love; if the desire to render visible God's mercy and compassion drives us; if we are committed to the care of the shared house that we inhabit; if we believe that there is a mission to which we must respond, then we will journey together so that flowing life and the humanity that we share can become something better every day.

To my brothers, the priestly Spiritual Counsellors and Spiritual Advisors to Teams, I would like to ask them for their understanding and support. We have been invited to accompany, encourage and serve the couples in our teams and may the Lord's grace strengthen our availability. May we be true witnesses of God's love and guides who share the demands of being part of a Movement that offer us the means for sanctification and the experience of our ministry.

To the couples who have chosen to be part of Teams of Our Lady, I reiterate my wish to be of service. I encourage them to continue on this beautiful path to holiness, taking advantage of the concrete means suggested by the Endeavours that are truly effective aides, which enable couples *"to progress with confidence in conjugal life on the way of the Gospel,"* as Pope Francis told us in his address to Teams of Our Lady (September 10, 2015). To widows who continue along the path within Teams, I thank them for their testimonial that they continue to offer of being in communion with their brothers. To all, my fraternal embrace, my fondness and my availability.

Ricardo Londoño Domínguez, Spiritual Counsellor

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[By Clarita & Edgardo BERNAL](#) [3]



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